

# Gonorrhea

## 2014 Case Definition

### CSTE Position Statement(s)

- 13-ID-03

### Background

Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, which can be transmitted during vaginal, anal, or oral sex, and at birth to a newborn.

### Clinical Description

A sexually transmitted infection commonly manifested by urethritis, cervicitis, proctitis, salpingitis, or pharyngitis. Infection may be asymptomatic.

### Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

- Observation of gram-negative intracellular diplococci in a urethral smear obtained from a male or an endocervical smear obtained from a female, or
- Isolation of typical gram-negative, oxidase-positive diplococci by culture (presumptive *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*) from a clinical specimen, or
- Demonstration of *N. gonorrhoeae* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid

### Case Classification

#### Probable

Demonstration of gram-negative intracellular diplococci in a urethral smear obtained from a male or an endocervical smear obtained from a female.

#### Confirmed

A person with laboratory isolation of typical gram-negative, oxidase-positive diplococci by culture (presumptive *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*) from a clinical specimen, or demonstration of *N. gonorrhoeae* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or detection of nucleic acid via nucleic acid amplification (e.g., Polymerase Chain Reaction [PCR]) or hybridization with a nucleic acid probe.